

Conversation with 14 year old Native American male, New Mexico (Transcription)

TAPE #22---M6 A(2) #238

FW: Oh OK. Did you ever take in a stray animal, like a cat, dog or rabbits, or you know.

I: No, uh-huh.

FW: OK, do you remember what the longest, did you ever take a trip?

I: Yeah.

FW: And what's, how far did you go. Was it longest trip you took, like you know, sometimes you go California, Mescalero, anyplace.

I: Yeah. Well, see I never been out of the state of New Mexico, so, see when I was going down to school at Indian school they took, used to take us on trips, like this one class, it was, it was, the name of it was (), but it was a combination of social studies and English. One day we took a trip to Bandolier, National Monument. And we went over there and we saw, we saw whole bunch of stuff, like like a museum and we would go up into the mountains and there would be little houses, where our ancestors used to live long time ago. And we went to this one place, it was way back, it was about two miles we walked over there and then we went to go see the, see those houses way up on top of the hill but you have to climb like a ladder that goes up the hill and then we went to, our family, we

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went to Mescalero and we went over there cause that was, that was the feast day over there. And it was like, like they danced over there like Kiowa and bunch of Indian dances. From here at Laguna there was a coup, I mean, yeah, there was a couple of dancers there. Adults that went down there to dance. And we stayed over at my uncle's place. His name is Woletto, and he let us stay over there for, when, see they had a tent down in the village, so they let us stay at their house. And we, when they always have that feast, we always go.

FW: Is it pretty when they have this? When did you say they have it?

I:

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I: They have it in, I think it's September. Right after Laguna feast.

FW: How are those people? Are they friendly to you down there?

I: Yeah. Mostly, mostly of them are Navahos and there's, there's like a big rodeogrounds on the other side of the hill and we go over there to watch them and it's free to get in and like in nights, like we'll go down to watch the devil dancers dance and we stick around there mostly all the time.

FW: So Mescalero is the longest trip you've taken and you like it down there?

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I: Yeah, it's OK. It's about, it's about four hour drive. See, we go, we go with the Sarcacinos from, from New York. And here this one time they took this, our, my cousin, she's from Siama, Sunnyside, and she, they took her and here I guess she got lost and, and she got lost and we were looking all over the place for her and then she was with this one girl, they were walking around together and then I guess she didn't wanna tell us where she was so we had to go looking for her. And we found her in this one tent where there was bunch of food and everything, where people go through there, and then they get stuff to eat. She was in there and then, and then we found her over there.

FW: Oh, well, that's real nice. What about in music. What kind of music as a teenager do you like?

I: I like, I like disco. It's, it's OK. Like you can dance to it, it has the rhythm that you can dance to.

FW: So you say disco is your favorite, favorite music?

I: Yeah.

FW: And, in those disco records, who's your favorite singer?

I: Well, it's not a singer, it's mostly groups, like the Commodores or Heatwave, or Diana Summers. They like sing good songs like the

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I: sing Brick House and the Heatwave sing boogie nights and that Donna Summer sings that, I forgot what the name of it was.

I: At your school, do you think basketball is popular?

I: Well, it's the second popular sport. The popular sport is football.

FW: Do you play basketball or do you just watch?

I: Sometimes I play, like in P.E. Today we played basketball, in PE, so yeah it's OK to, it's OK to watch and play.

FW: What do you think is the real exciting game?

I: The real exciting game, let's see. Fort, Fort Wingate, yeah. It was a real close game cause like all the good players on there from last years were playing and some of the new guys and, and old guys that used to play for L.A. were there. And they had, they fought it out. It was a good game. And, yeah, the closest game we had was with Fort Wingate.

FW: What are the other sport that are popular...besides basketball and football.

I: Baseball. I like baseball cause, like I said, like baseball is my most popular sport cause I like to play it and that's, seems like that's the only sport I know how to play, besides basketball.

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FW: Do you know if the girls play that too?

I: Yeah. There, there's a girl's goftball team, And sometimes I think they let the girls play with the little league now.

FW: Yeah, I noticed that girls can play, I guess. OK, what about at your school, do you belong to any kind of club? You know, social club ... Do you belong to any of them?

I: See, I couldn't join any this year cause I came to the, I came to the school late cause first I was going down to Albuquerque Indian school and I had some clubs down there. There was, I think it was Art and Band club. And I liked them a lot.

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FW: In your school, did you ever join like a band or play any kind of instrument?

I: In elementary, I used to play a trumpet. Used to be kinda fun cause all of us would get together and play and it was really neat cause our band teacher, he used to let us play, play our instrument.

FW: Like here at Laguna, what are some of the things that people grow in their gardens and have you ever had a garden yourself or worked on one? Then what did you guys plant or what did they plant?

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I: The laguna people plant mostly corn and squash and pumpkins and yeah pumpkins cause that's, sometimes if you don't have enough money, we just get a fruit from the garden and just, we just mix it up and eat it, so we won't have to spend any money.

FW: Did you ever, did you ever plant for yourself, didyou ever have a small garden, just to see if it would grow?

I: Yeah, I had one once. Me and my mom, we had, we both had a garden and seems like, it seems like when we had our garden, we couldn't even plant or anything bause my little brother's friends and everything would be coming around the house and we had, do not step on the garden and they they just go walk right through it.

FW: So, you had your own garden one time, huh?

I: Yeah, but it's hard to have a garden, cause like they just messed up and throw stuff into the garden and like, like my little brother's friends just walked through the garden.

FW: What about, do you know what season of the year that you like best? You know, springtime, fall, summer or autumn.

I: I like summer cause, it's OK cause we can go swimming and play basketball and baseball, like we can, like it's a, like it's a fine day to play it cause, cause it's not snowing or raining or anything. It's just the right time to play.

FW: So summer would be your favorite season then huh?

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I: Yeah.

FW: Cause, do you think during summer time, you can do a lot of things that you can't do with the other like spring, winter and fall.

I: Yeah, cause like winter you can't play cause, cause it's always cold and everything. Yeah, summer's, summer is the, the season I like cause you can do bunch of stuff in summer instead of those other other years, cause mostly they're raining or snowing and then you can, you can swim and play basketball, baseball, in summer cause it's kinda like hot so you can play and then go home and go to sleep or something.

FW: That's when you used to play little league, during the summer?

I: Uh-huh. Yeah. See, in the summer, we always used to enter tournaments. Like, we entered this tournament, I think it was, two years ago, they entered this tournament. I didn't go. And they entered this tournament down at, at () school in that park and I guess they got fourth place.

FWL What position did you play in little league?

I: In little league? I played, sometimes I played catcher, and pitcher and first and third?

FW: Did you ever make a home run?

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I: Yeah, this one year, I made, I think it was eleven or twelve home runs that one year, that I was playing for my uncle.

FW: Oh, so you played for your uncle too.

I: Uh-huh.

FWL Did you ever go hunting and you know, did you ever go hunting for big game, little game, you know. What kind of animals did you go hunting for?

I: I went hunting for deer mostly cause we go hunt-, like if, our tradition is like if you kill a deer, you have a big feast if its like, if you kill a deer, it's your duty that you're giving

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I: your deer dinner. And you invite bunch of people over and everything to eat the stew. And there's bunch of cakes and salads and bread, Indian bread on the table that you can eat, so that's (), that's why we go hunt deer.

FW: What about, did anybody ever tell you, or did you ever hear a dangerous hunting stories...did you ever hear any kind of stories like that?

I: Well, no, not really. Umhmm.

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FW: Do you remember getting lost, like hunting, didyou ever get lost? ... Like maybe you went duck hunting, you know.

I: Let's see, sometimes, sometimes, I got, I get lost sometimes but, but I find my way through. Like, I kinda got lost when we were hunting over here by () Garcia. We were, we were all over that place but I forgot where the truck was and I went on the other side of the hill, so, so.

FW: Were you scared?

I: Yeah, I, I was scared, and then my brother found me. They were looking for me while they were all ready to leave.

FW: What were you thinking when you got lost. Did you think that nobodywas gonna find you or you couldn't find your way back or did you think you were lost for, not for good, but you know, did you think you were just lost.

I: Yeah.

FW: You couldn't find your way back.

I: Uh-huh. It was scary too cause in those mountains over there, there might be bobcats or rattlesnakes. Plus it's kinda scary cause like if you walk, well there's the snakes and bobcats.

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FW: Do you know if you have a favorite aunt or an uncle and how are they? How are they like? Are they good to you? You know.

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I: Oh yeah, well, see, this guy, he isn't really my uncle, he's my auntie's boyfriend, her name is Joanna and Lee, yeah, they're really good to me. Cause sometimes he get, my auntie's boyfriend gives me money and yeah, he likes to talk to me a lot and I get interested in what he says and my other uncle, his name is Anthony, he takes, like he took me to movies, and he takes me with him sometimes, with him to football games at the stadium at Albuquerque and basketball games and I joined his men's, men's basketball league.

FW: So that's your favorite uncle, would be your aunt's boyfriend?

I: Uh-huh.

FW: It's almost, but he's not your real uncle, though, but you take him as one, though.

I: Uh-huh.

FW: OK. Did you ever see a bad accident, or have you been in a accident ... What happened?

I: No, I never been in a accident, but I seen one.

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FWL Was it bad?

I: Yeah, it was, it was kinda bad. Where two cars rammed into each other. And I think both, both of those cars were total loss. (C11, A ends here cont'd on side B) And that's, that's, it wasn't too bad, some of the accidents I just seen like where they hit into a rock or something.

FW: so, but you've never been in one then, huh?

I: Huh-huh.

FW: Does it scare you when you see a bad accident? Does it kinda make you feel all funny inside?

I: Yeah, like my, my godfather, his name is Emerson (), he got into a bad accident, I guess he was drinking or something, and I think he was coming down from that bar, right by New Laguna, I guess he got into a accident. He, he almost hit this one house. The truck was a total loss and he, was, he was in, he was, he was in bad <conditipn?>

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I: but I guess he pulled through.

FW: If you had a whole day to yourself, you know, just one whole day, what would you do, I mean, would you like it?

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I: Yeah, like, go to a movies or like go, go to amusement parks, or like bowling, yeah, it would be OK, cause like, like if my mom let me have the day to my whole self, I would pick those things to do. And if she gave me money I would go to, like to concerts and football games adn basketball games.

FW: Do you like your vacation now? Do you call that having, not a whole day, but a whole two weeks, off.

I: Yeah.

FW: Have you,have you done a lot with those days?

I: Uh-huh. <Like?> my brother, me and my brother always go play basketball, in about four, four o'clock and yeah, we mostly watch our little niece, her name is Tammy.

FW: What about, do you know of anybody that's a good storyteller? And that tells good stories ... Does he ever tell you stories that your sure like, you know.

I: Yeah, my grandma tells me stories, hamaha stories, that means like old time stories. Yeah, she tells me some of those stories, like, like, like never go hunting, like when it's, sometimes never go hunting when, when it's like in the summertime cause there might be rattlesnakes or, or stuff like, like animals around.

FW: Did she ever tell you about that Hansel and Gretel in Indian, member, they usually tell that fairy tale.

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I: Yeah they tell, well sometimes she, see, I can't, sometimes I understand what, what they're saying, but, yeah, sometimes she doesn't tell me in Indian, she tells me in English, cause I don't, sometimes I don't know any Indian. ENDS HERE (C-11 AND M-6)